

APPLICATION NO. 10,027,207
DOCKET NO. P1051/N8002

REMARKS

Claims 10-21, 28, 32-34 and 38-49 are pending in the above-captioned application, with claims 18-21, 28, 32-34, 48 and 49 allowed and claims 12, 14, 40 and 42 objected to. Claims 10, 28 and 38 are amended herein and claims 14 and 42 canceled in order to more clearly define and fully protect Applicants' invention. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims 10-21, 28, 32-34 and 38-49 is believed appropriate and is respectfully requested.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the interview held on 11 December 2003, between Examiner Boss, Julian Norley, Director of Research and Development for Electronic Thermal Management for Applicants, and the undersigned at which time the claim amendments made herein and the newly cited reference to Freuler were discussed.

More particularly, it was noted in the Official Action that the claim limitation that the flexible graphite sheet article from which the inventive thermal interface is formed is anisotropic was indicated as allowable over all prior art of record. For instance, in the Official Action, claims 14 and 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 42 claim the limitation that the flexible graphite sheet article is anisotropic and are directly dependent from their respective independent claims.

In the amendments made herein, all independent claims pending in the application now include the limitation that the flexible graphite sheet article is

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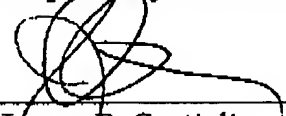
anisotropic. Claim 28 has also been amended to correct a grammatical error. Thus, all pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

It was also pointed out during the 11 December interview that the newly cited Freuler reference relates to a paraffin composition having graphite particles dispersed therein, which differs in substantive respect from the flexible graphite sheet of the present invention which has a graphite continuous phase having oil impregnated therein. Nonetheless, as indicated in the interview summary record, the added limitation that the inventive material is anisotropic in any event overcomes the rejections based on Freuler.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims 10-13, 15-21, 28, 32-34 and 38-41, 43-49 are now in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly sought. If there remains any matter which prevents the allowance of any of these claims, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned, collect, at 615-242-2400 to arrange for another interview which may further expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 50-1202.

Respectfully submitted,



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